

EAST PALESTINE VILLAGE COUNCIL MONDAY FEB 11 2013 COMMUNITY CENTER 7PM

Mayor Zuch called the meeting to order. Present were Atty. Beagle, Mr. Cohen, Mr. Elzer, Mr. Figley, Mr. Tyger and Mrs. Wisser. The minutes of the January 28 meeting were approved on a motion by Elzer, seconded by Wisser. The clerk stated there was no Fire Department report for January due to a computer problem and as soon as it was received it would be given to Council. The January monthly department reports were approved on a motion by Cohen, seconded by Wisser.

AGENDA: PATTI BOSLEY. Mrs. Bosley began by saying former Mayor Mark Rhodes asked council about a business plan a few meetings ago. Bosley said that the City should be run as a business and a 5 year plan should be worked on. She said a solid tax base is what is needed, she has lived here all her life and the town is dying, that there is nothing to attract anyone here. The merchants are hurting and there are 10 empty buildings in the downtown. We are off the beaten path and can't be seen from RT 14. There is discussion on the shale boom in 3 years, but what do we have to attract them here, and we are not going to get the money originally thought for gas leasing because we dug our feet. She feels that our Council is the board of directors and everyone that lives here is a share holder. She said that the light plant was sold 38 years ago and we got 3.8 million dollars for it. On average \$100,000.00 a year has been spent of that money and asked where the money has gone. We have no investment advisory board. You can't point a finger at one person, everyone is responsible. Now there is less than \$40,000.00 left. We should have answers as to why and where. Mr. Cohen asked how having those answers will move the city forward. Bosley stated she's bringing it up because she wants council to understand their spending habits. Mr. Figley stated that all we can do right now is hold what we have until the debt is paid and there is no immediate solution. Bosley wants council to come up with a plan for future. She stated that the city spent \$36000.00 on a piece of equipment that's not being used, and it came from that fund. Bosley said we need a building inspector and should look into borrowing one from another county. People won't come into the city if it looks this way, it needs cleaned up. The focus needs to be on increasing the tax base. Building permits are not open ended. She stated she knows other communities are in the same boat. Atty. Beagle stated that Bosley has brought up valid points and they are not directed at any one person, there are properties that need something done. Atty. Beagle thanked Bosley for coming and bringing up accountability. Beagle stated that we can't lose sight of these points but they can't be solved in one meeting. At this point Village Manager Monteleone began by saying he has only been in this position for a short time. Rhodes was given a vague answer at that meeting because it was brought up very quickly but everything that she has brought up is being addressed. He stated he has been working for 4 months on a building inspector, has called surrounding communities on how they do their building inspectors. He has been working on new ideas for the cemetery, in the annual report there is a vague financial plan that he plans on the village thriving in the next 3 years until a large loan is paid off. He stated he and Traci Thompson work on a couple times a week. He stated not only is he working on a 5 year plan, but a 5 and 10 year capital improvement plan. There were projects slated but that he cancelled so as not to incur new debt. He stated we are taking action and there is a plan soon to be in place. Bosley stated that people don't get that information and Monteleone stated because of that lack of communication he has re implemented the newsletter that will be distributed in the newspaper and are online. He stated he has been in contact with developers and investment companies trying to attract them here and showing them properties. Mayor Zuch stated we don't usually get a crowd at council meetings but they are open to the public and people with questions should get on the agenda and come speak. Mr. Figley said there have been improvements to the town including all of the streets. Mr. Figley said that East Palestine is hindered geographically and topographically. Mr. Elzer said the TV and newspaper just did articles about East Palestine doing so well, and to say its falling apart while the Village Manager has people pulling weeds on sidewalks is wrong. Elzer said things are changing and we can't do anything about what happened before this Council, but we are here today to make it better. Mr. Cohen said that annexation isn't as easy as everyone thinks. The moment you annex you have to pay to give water & sewer and the majority of people out there don't want to be annexed. Atty. Beagle stated that instead of telling people we have a plan, let's tell them what the plan is. There was no clerk's report or mayor's report.

MANAGER: Monteleone said he did not do a weekly update as he gave council the 2012 annual report.

LAW DIRECTOR: Atty. Smith stated that a few meetings ago legislation was passed to continue the CHIP program, she followed up with Marshall Bleckman and was told there will be no new money but there is still

money available from prior that hasn't been allocated to specific requests. Bleckman is going to get her the income requirements and she will give them to the clerk so they will be available at the Municipal Building. Following up on the Electric Fund, she and the Traci Thompson are looking at the historic information that they do not have %100 answers on. They debt is being booked on both sides but they should be able to have definite answers by next council meeting. Payments are due back to the fund beginning sometime this year.

STREET: Mr. Figley stated he has been receiving complaints about excessive salt use on the roads; it causes damage to the streets especially the ones chip and sealed. At this point Jim Mackall asked to speak. He stated there are adjustments on the spreaders on the salt trucks. In past he stated there would be salt thrown all the way into his yard, he spoke to John Boley and he adjusted the spreader, but they were wasting a lot of salt. Jerry Coblentz from the street department said there is only so much salt that comes out of a truck and all of the drivers run the same and you have to salt the roads.

SAFETY/PARK/REC/CEM: Mr. Cohen stated there was a committee meeting before council tonight and they moved out of committee that the Law Director prepare an ordinance to create a position of aquatics director and it would entail and he was putting that on the floor as a motion, seconded by Atty. Beagle. All in favor.

DEVELOPMENT: Mr. Elzer stated there will be a meeting Monday at the Community Center, it is not open to the public, but it is for businesses who want to locate here and there will be politicians and bankers there to help get them started. Mr. Elzer asked if the drug testing has started and Traci Thompson stated it had and that the testing is pre-employment and random. Mr. Elzer stated that he had already spoke to everyone but the current policy on the Community Center is anyone except the city has to pay for it and he has argued for years that is a mistake. That if any organization that is a benefit to the city should not have to pay for it. It should be non profit and benefitting the city should not have to pay. Mayor Zuch stated that's why it is so difficult that there are so many clubs, organizations and churches and it will take more maintenance and cleaning. Mayor Zuch stated that if it is changed it's going to have to be very specific. Mr. Figley asked why. Mayor Zuch stated that they will have to decide who gets it free and who doesn't. Mr. Cohen stated that every meeting these organizations have elsewhere will now be held here. Monteleone stated that in the annual report we were already down \$5000 in rentals. Thompson stated revenue is already down and this would take away more. Mr. Figley said this is something the city should do; they are doing the baby pool not for more revenue but because it will bring more people, organizations that are helping the community shouldn't have to pay. Thompson said nonprofit groups already get it for free during the week during the day, evenings and weekends are the times it gets rented the most. Mr. Elzer said there was a meeting of the Chamber Friday night for the street fair and the building was empty but the Chamber had to pay \$60 to have a meeting about the street fair. The Masons let them use their building for free but the Village doesn't. Mr. Elzer said this isn't about us and them, we should be working together. Pam Figley said that if it benefits the city that's the way it should be. Mr. Elzer made a motion to change the Community Center policy to allow nonprofit organizations that benefit the city to use the community center at no charge and write a new policy. Thompson asked what would happen if a nonprofit books the center 3 months from now and then we get someone who will pay and wants the building for that date. Mr. Elzer stated that he feels the non profits should take precedence, renting it is a good idea if it's not being used by non profit, it's called the "Community Center" it should be used by the community. Mr. Figley seconded the motion. Mr. Cohen, Mrs. Wisser voted yes, Atty. Beagle and Mr. Tyger voted no. Four yes and two no, motion carried. Mr. Elzer stated there are meetings that go on such as township and commissioners and there should be someone from council at these meetings and reports back to council. Mr. Tyger stated he has gone to township meetings and can continue to do so and Atty. Beagle stated she can attend commissioners meetings. Mr. Cohen stated he attends Library and Park Board meetings.

UTILITY: NO REPORT, but she had an email for the Manager about windshere and hanging banners on the poles.

FINANCE: He stated the EMT money is coming in at a better pace. He asked about the houses slated for demolition this year. Thompson stated there are 4 or 5 houses on the list but she will make some phone calls and find out details.

At this time Mayor Zuch gave a brief synopsis of tonight's legislation. Atty Smith spoke on the annexation legislation. There were some difficulties that Britains couldn't move to the proposed location. The process is as follows: upon a determination from the County Commissioners it has to go back to the legislative authority to accept or reject. If you take no action, after 120 days it will die, otherwise you accept or reject. It doesn't look like it is going to move forward. Mr. Elzer stated this is just a first reading. Mr. Figley asked

why we didn’t just repeal the previous legislation and Atty. Smith stated this is part of the annexation process, the second step after this would be to direct her to repeal the utility legislation. Mr. Figley stated he is against emergency legislation, but why can’t this be done as emergency, and Mr. Cohen asked why do anything if it will die on its own. Atty Smith stated we had 18 months on the utilities so we cannot wait for the 120 days. Mr. Elzer doesn’t want it as emergency because at his meeting Monday, they are trying to get Brittain going again.

VISITORS: Patti Bosley, Betty Reeves, Gene Hoffman, Jerry Coblentz, Traci Thompson, Dan Scott, Dianna Elzer, Mark Rhodes, Chuck McGuire, Denny Sugar, Jim Mackall, John & Bonnie Davis, Katie Schwendemen, Pam Figley, Park Grim, Emery Coon, Nancy & Greg Reeves, Chief Kevin Dickey, John Jurjavcic, Dot Herbert, John Bosley, Larry & Terry Ward.

VISITORS COMMENTS ON CURRENT LEGISLATION: Mark Rhodes asked if anyone had ever looked into getting a college student as building and zoning inspector and asked what type of degrees are needed. Mayor Zuch said the Manager is looking into all options for a building and zoning inspector, and this portion of the meeting is for comments on current legislation.

LEGISLATION: Atty. Beagle introduced **Ord. 4-2013** for a 3rd reading and made a motion that it be read by title only, seconded by Mr. Cohen. All in favor **An ordinance amending the employee manual as to section 1.25 : uniforms.** Atty. Beagle called for a vote on **Ord 4-2013.** Atty. Beagle-y, Mr. Elzer-y, Mr. Figley-y, Mr .Cohen-y, Mr. Tyger –y, and Mrs. Wisser-y. 6 yes to pass. Atty. Beagle introduced **Ord.6-2013** for a 1st reading and made a motion that it be read by title only, seconded by Mr. Cohen. **An ordinance accepting the annexation of 9.312 acres known as the “Brittain Motors Annexation”.** Atty. Beagle introduced **Res. 1-2013** and made a motion that it be read by title only, seconded by Mr. Cohen. **A resolution authorizing the Columbiana County Auditor to certify to the Municipality of East Palestine the total current tax valuation of the Municipality and the dollar amount of revenue which would be generated by renewal of fire levies in the municipality.** Atty. Beagle called for a vote on **Res 1-2013.** Atty. Beagle-y, Mr. Elzer-y, Mr. Figley-abstain, Mr. Cohen-y, Mr. Tyger-y, and Mrs. Wisser-y. 5 yes to pass. Atty. Beagle introduced **res.2-2013** and made a motion that it be read by title only, seconded by Mr. Tyger. **A resolution authorizing the submission of a funding application under the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) program, and declaring an emergency.** Atty. Beagle made a motion to suspend the rules and declare an emergency. Mr. Elzer asked why this was emergency. Atty. Smith stated the deadline for the application is March 1 to qualify. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cohen. Atty. Beagle-y, Mr. Elzer-y, Mr. Cohen-y, Mr. Figley-y, Mr. Tyger and Mrs. Wisser. 6 yes to pass. Mr. Elzer made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mrs. Wisser. All in favor, meeting adjourned.

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MAYOR MARGO ZUCH	MISTI J. MARTIN - CLERK